

Federal Audit Liaison Council Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2001

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Jim Angel, Treasury, opened the meeting, highlighted the agenda items, and thanked those members who are participating in the six working groups. Jim also asked the council members if they wish to continue with the general format of having the small working groups reporting to the council or maybe having the council to do more interacting as a whole on common issues. The general consensus was to continue with the small working groups reporting to the council.

NASA Request – Recommendations Closure

Herb Robbins, NASA, discussed a survey he started two weeks ago. Basically, he sent e-mail messages to all the member of the FALCo requesting information on how member agencies go about closing open recommendations.

Herb said six of the agencies have responded so far. Members provided him with helpful information and insight on how their agencies work out some of the issues that he raised. In addition, some of the members invited Herb to come and visit their agencies to see first hand how their audit follow-up function works. Jim Angel suggested to Herb that his original request for data should be sent out again.

HHS Presentation – P.L. 106-107 Grants Streamlining

Jeanellen Kallevang, Chief of the Policy Branch in Health Resources Division of HHS, discussed P.L. 106-107 Grants Streamlining. Ms. Kallevang provided the council with some background about herself and the public law. Currently, she is on detail working with 26 other agencies to implement the initial plan for this law, which is due May 2001. The law (which was an unfunded mandate on federal agencies) was passed in November 1999.

A handout entitled, “Public Law 106-107 Presentation – Opportunity for Major Reform of Grant Management” was passed out to the council. Ms. Kallevang discussed each page of the handout. Basically, the law addresses federal financial assistance. The group is focusing on grant and property agreements to begin with, however, before the law sunsets is, 2007, they will need to focus on loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships

Subcommittee Progress Reports:

A-50 Group – Their first meeting was held on April 24, 2001, and covered guidelines for the group. The working group agreed it was important to know the circular A-50, as well as the authorities that back it. Next meeting is scheduled in June 2001, when members will discuss the current and the revised A-50.

Government-Wide Consolidated Financial Statements (GWCFS) – This two-person group did not meet, but some preliminary research on current initiatives was done.

Monetary benefits - The Monetary Benefits group met twice. The main focus of the group is to see what the IG dollar amounts really mean and how can we make these numbers more accurate. The group is still talking about where its direction. Treasury is the only agency that tracks actual monetary benefits realized. The group is also looking for examples of poor cost funds estimates made by OIG. The group will use these examples in a short paper that will tie them to legislation requirements, and how the whole process can be improved in conjunction with budgetary requirements.

GAO – This group had one meeting and needs to re-define its objectives.

Best Practices – The Best Practices Working Group distributed a summary of the group's activities and action plan. The working group has defined the term "best practice", established categories for grouping best practices, and developed a format for presenting the best practices on the FALC web site. Examples of seven best practices were distributed to FALC members to be used as guides when preparing their department/agency's best practices. All FALC members were encouraged to submit their best practices to the working group, through Ken Jones by email.

Training – no status report was given.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED MID-JULY 2001